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Senator Shaheen visits with members of the Claremont area FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics team at Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center in Claremont on February 11.

Stopping Sugar's Sweet Deal

On Valentine's Day, I had a great [visit at Lindt USA's Stratham headquarters](#), where I toured the company's state-of-the art production facility and met many of its 350 employees. Despite the economic downturn, Lindt opened a new cocoa liquor facility in June, adding more jobs at its headquarters and pumping millions

Exports and Innovation

Keeping America's economy competitive in a global economy is one of our greatest challenges as a nation, and we can confront that challenge directly by encouraging exports and innovation, two topics I discussed recently in visits to New Hampshire businesses and Dartmouth University.

Respecting Passengers' Rights

Airlines would finally respect the rights of passengers under the Passengers' Bill of Rights that was included in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill passed by the U.S. Senate on February 17. The legislation, which included key provisions to protect passengers that I cosponsored, guarantees that travelers are

of construction dollars into the New Hampshire economy.

While there, I talked about a bipartisan bill I introduced recently that would get rid of unfair sugar subsidies that stand in the way of companies like Lindt. The Stop Unfair Giveaway and Restrictions (SUGAR) Act would phase out the sugar support program, which keeps sugar prices artificially high, costing consumers \$4 billion a year, and driving candy and food companies overseas.

The SUGAR Act would help keep jobs like those at Lindt, one of the Seacoast's largest employers, in the United States. I look forward to pushing for the bill's passage to defend U.S. jobs and put money back in Americans' pockets.

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Read what the [Washington Post](#) and the [Foster's Daily Democrat](#) say about the SUGAR Act.

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During visits to [Trade Wings in Portsmouth](#) and Segway, Inc. in Bedford, I led roundtable discussions with Export-Import Bank Chairman and President Fred P. Hochberg on the federal resources available to small businesses who want to sell their goods overseas. New Hampshire small businesses stand to benefit tremendously from international sales and I intend to do everything I can to help them gain access to new markets and connect them with federal resources.

I was honored to deliver the [keynote speech](#) at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business "Business and Society" conference, where I discussed the government's role in sparking innovation. Through research and development investment, improved math and science education, increased exporting, a reduction in the national debt, and a comprehensive energy strategy, the government can foster an environment that encourages innovation in the private sector, which will drive our competitiveness, create jobs, and improve our quality of life.

[Read more](#)

allowed to deplane after three hours on the tarmac and aren't forced to go long periods without food, water, or restrooms. I was moved to cosponsor the legislation after Bedford businesswoman and passenger rights advocate Jennifer Shirkani told me about her frustrating experiences with tarmac delays.

At the same time, the FAA bill will also spur job creation and economic growth by making our aviation system safer and more efficient. Right now, even Mongolia has a more advanced air traffic control system than we do. This bill moves America's economy forward by upgrading airports and accelerating our transition to a 21st century, satellite-based air traffic control system.

Additionally, the bill includes critical investments for airports, authorizing \$8.1 billion to improve airport infrastructure. Some of these funds will go to New Hampshire airports, helping to support a critical component of our state's commerce.

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